

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1254

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IC, US, NATO
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S VIEWS ON NATO BASE

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR AND COMICEDEFOR CALLED SEPTEMBER 22 ON
FONMIN WHO ASSURED THEM OF HIS ACCEPTANCE OF CONTINUED NEED
FOR NATO PRESENCE KEFLAVIK IN CONTEXT PRESENT AND FORESEEABLE
INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND US-GOK UNDERSTANDING REACHED 1974
RE BASE. FONMIN CONFIRMED HIS PLANNED DEPARTURE SEPTEMBER 24
FOR UNGA AND THAT HE INTENDS REMAIN NEW YORK ONLY SIX DAYS.

1. THIS MORNING I ACCOMPANIED COMICEDEFOR, ADMIRAL KARL
BERNSTEIN, ON LATTER'S FIRST CALL ON FIREIGN MINISTER
AGUSTSSON WHICH LATTER HAD ASKED ME TO ARRANGE.
2. AFTER WELCOMING US BOTH, FONMIN NOTED THAT HIS
QTE PERSONAL UNQTE POSITION RE NATO BASE AT KEFLAVIK REMAINED
UNCHANGED - IE, HE WISHED IT WERE POSSIBLE TO PHASE IT
OUT IN CONTEXT OF A GENERAL REDUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL
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MILITARY LEVELS WHICH WOULD PERMIT ICELAND TO PURSUE ITS

OWN AFFAIRS. HOWEVER, HE RECOGNIZED THAT QTE FOR THE PRESENT AND A LONGER TIME BEYOND UNQTE ANY SUCH REDUCTION IN MILITARY STRENGTHS BY US AND QTE THE OTHER SIDE UNQTE APPEARED UNLIKELY. THEREFORE, HE ACCEPTED FULLY REQUIREMENT FOR US PRESENCE AT KEFLAVIK IN CONTEXT OF EXISTING AND FORESEEABLE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND UNDERSTANDING REACHED BETWEEN US AND ICELAND IN 1974 AFFECTING NUMBERS OF PERSONNEL AT BASE AND GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF ICELANDERS IN ITS ACTIVITIES. FONMIN WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WOULD BE A LOYAL SUPPORTER OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY AS LONG AS HE WAS IN HIS PRESENT POSITION AND THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH US IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE. HE APOLOGIZED IN ADVANCE FOR OCCASIONAL NEED HE COULD SEE FOR RAISING QTE TRIVIAL UNQTE MATTERS WITH US.

3. ADMIRAL BERNSTEIN AND I EXPRESSED OUR APPRECIATION OF FONMIN'S OFFER OF COOPERATION AND ASSURED HIM WE WERE ALSO PREPARED TO BE HELPFUL WHEREVER POSSIBLE. I RECALLED TO HIM THAT IN BRIEF REMARKS I MADE LAST WEEK AT KEFLAVIK STATION CHANGE OF COMMAND, I HAD NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH WE WERE IN ICELAND AS FOREIGNERS, MORE IMPORTANTLY WE WERE HERE AS FRIENDS. FONMIN NODDED AND REPLIED QTE THAT WAS GOOD UNQTE. HE THEN SAID HE KNOW SECRETARY UNDERSTOOD IMPORTANCE OF ICELAND AND MENTIONED THAT SECRETARY HAD TOLD HIM AT LUNCHEON MEETING IN BRUSSELS THAT IF THERE WERE ANY MATTERS FONMIN WISHED TO BRING TO HIS ATTENTION, HE SHOULD FEEL FREE TO DO SO AND US AMBASSADOR WOULD BE CERTAIN TO INFORM HIM. FONMIN WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH SECRETARY'S OFFER, AND I ASSURED HIM I STOOD READY TO HELP AT ANY TIME.

4. MEETING ENDED CORDIALLY WITH FONMIN'S SUGGESTION QTE AS OLDEST PERSON PRESENT UNQTE THAT THREE OF US HENCEFORTH DEAL WITH EACH OTHER ON FIRST NAME BASIS TO WHICH COMICEDEFOR AND I READILY ACCEDED. AS WE LEFT, HE CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD BE LEAVING FOR NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 24 TO ATTEND UNGA AND WOULD REMAIN ONLY SIX DAYS.

5. COMMENT: WITH EXPRESSION OF PERSONAL VIEWS RE BASE, CONFIDENTIAL

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PROFESSION OF LOYALTY TO GOVERNMENT'S POLICY, ASSURANCE OF COOPERATION AND SHOW OF PERSONAL WARMTH, FONMIN SEEMS TO HAVE COVERED ALL BASES. HE ALSO LEFT OPEN POSSIBILITY OF TAGGIN US BY REFERENCE TO OCCASIONAL NEED TO RAISE QTE TRIVIAL UNQTE MATTERS FROM TIME TO TIME. I AM TOLD HIS REFERENCE TO SUPPORTING GOI POLICY AS LONG AS HE IS IN PRESENT POSITION IS A CAVEAT HE ALWAYS ADDS. WHETHER HE DOES SO FROM HABIT OR WHETHER HE HAS REASON TO BE

UNCERTAIN OF HIS TENURE IS NOT CLEAR.

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